

ning September 15 and ending October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month beginning September 15, 1993, and ending October 15, 1993, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

**William J. Clinton**

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 17.

**Executive Order 12864—United States Advisory Council on the National Information Infrastructure**  
*September 15, 1993*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2) ("Act"), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Establishment.** (a) There is established in the Commerce Department the "United States Advisory Council on the National Information Infrastructure" ("Council"). The Council shall consist of not more than 25 members to be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce ("Secretary").

(b) The Secretary shall appoint from among the members of the Council officials to serve as chairperson(s) or vice-chairperson(s) of the Council as he shall deem appropriate.

**Sec. 2. Functions.** (a) The Council shall advise the Secretary on matters related to the development of the National Information Infrastructure. The National Information Infra-

structure shall be the integration of hardware, software, and skills that will make it easy and affordable to connect people with each other, with computers, and with a vast array of services and information resources.

(b) The Council shall advise the Secretary on a national strategy for promoting the development of a National Information Infrastructure. Issues that the Council may address include, but are not limited to:

(1) the appropriate roles of the private and public sectors in developing the National Information Infrastructure;

(2) a vision for the evolution of the National Information Infrastructure and its public and commercial applications;

(3) the impact of current and proposed regulatory regimes on the evolution of the National Information Infrastructure;

(4) national strategies for maximizing the benefits of the National Information Infrastructure, as measured by job creation, economic growth, increased productivity, and enhanced quality of life;

(5) national strategies for developing and demonstrating applications in areas such as electronic commerce, agile manufacturing, life-long learning, health care, government services, and civic networking;

(6) national security, emergency preparedness, system security, and network protection implications;

(7) national strategies for maximizing interconnection and inter-operability of communications networks;

(8) international issues associated with the National Information Infrastructure;

(9) universal access; and

(10) privacy, security, and copyright issues.

(c) The chairperson(s) may, from time to time, invite experts to submit information to the Council and may form subcommittees of the Council to review specific issues.

**Sec. 3. Administration.** (a) The heads of executive agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide to the Council such information as it may require for the purpose of carrying out its functions.

(b) Members of the Council shall serve without compensation but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law, including 5 U.S.C. 5701–5707 and section 7(d) of

the Act, for persons serving intermittently in government service.

(c) The Department of Commerce shall provide the Council with administrative services, facilities, staff, and other support services necessary for the performance of its functions.

**Sec. 4. General.** (a) Notwithstanding any other Executive order, the functions of the President under the Act that are applicable to the Council, except that of reporting to Congress, shall be performed by the Secretary in accordance with guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) The Council shall exist for a period of two years from the date of this order, unless the Council's charter is subsequently extended prior to the aforementioned date.

(c) Members of the Council and its subcommittee shall not be considered special government employees for any purpose or for purposes of 18 U.S.C. 201–203, 205, 207–209, and 218–219.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
September 15, 1993.

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## **Remarks in Response to Letters on Health Care**

*September 16, 1993*

Good morning. Please be seated. Welcome to the Rose Garden. I'm glad the rain has stopped, but we put up the tent just as a precaution.

Nine months ago, when I asked the American people to write to us to send their thoughts about the health care system and the need to reform, I had no idea what I was doing to our already overworked correspondence staff. Today, more than 700,000 letters later, I am happy to be able to join Hillary and Al and Tipper in welcoming a few of you here who wrote to us.

In the weeks and months ahead, health care will often be topic number one at dinner tables, at offices, at medical clinics, and in the Halls of Congress. But before we launch into the debate I wanted to invite you here to remind everyone that, as Hillary says, there are 250 million health care experts in our Nation, and everyone has a different story.

If you read some of these letters as I have, the picture very quickly becomes clear. Even the millions of Americans who enjoy health care coverage are afraid it won't be there for them next month or next year. They want us to take action to give them the security that all Americans deserve. Let's start then with four people whose stories speak volumes about our health care system.

In order, they are Jermon Strong, Nelda Holley, Stacey Askew, and Margie Silverman.

*[At this point, the participants read their letters.]*

These letters are representative of tens of thousands that we received telling stories like the ones you've heard: people who can't go back to work, people who can't take job advancements, people who have no coverage because they're young and they're unemployed, all the other things that you have heard here.

There is one particular problem in our health insurance system in America that I'd like to focus on by asking for two more people to read letters, something that's a part of the everyday vocabulary now of most working men and women in this country: the preexisting condition, the thing which if you have it you either can't get health insurance or you can never leave the job you're in. So I'd like to hear from two people from California and Illinois, Suzy Somers and Jean Kaczmarek.

*[The participants read their letters and Hillary Clinton responded.]*

Let me just say one thing about this to try to hammer home what I think is a very important point. All the stories you've heard today have nothing to do with the quality of American health care but everything to do with the system of insurance we have. And in the weeks and months ahead you may hear a lot of stories about that, but the bottom